

Docket No. A2011-24

Postal Regulatory Commission

Washington, D.C. 20268-0001

NOTICE OF FILING UNDER 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)

TO THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE:

Please take notice that on July 15, 2011, the Commission received a petition for review of the Postal Service's determination to close the Ben Franklin, Texas Post Office, located in Ben Franklin, Texas. The petition for review was filed by Benny and Julie Lovell (Petitioner) and is postmarked July 8, 2011.

This notice is advisory only and is being furnished so that the Postal Service may begin assembling the administrative record in advance of any formal appeal proceedings held upon the alleged (closing/consolidation) for transmittal pursuant to 39 CFR § 3001.113(a) (requiring the filing of the record within 15 days of the filing with the Commission of a petition for review). The Postal Service's administrative record is due no later than August 1, 2011.



Ruth Ann Abrams
Acting Secretary

Date: July 15, 2011

Attachment

Received

July 7, 2011

JUL 14 2011

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200
Washington DC 20268-0001

Office of PAGR

A2011-24

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is in response to the Final Determination to Close the Ben Franklin, Texas Post Office (Zip Code 75415) posted July 1, 2011. The citizens of Ben Franklin, Texas feel the closing of this Post Office is both unwarranted and a detriment to our community. While our numbers may be few, we are taxpayers and deserve the services our tax dollars pay for. It is our understanding that the Post office is supposed to provide a service for "we the people" and is not necessarily for profit only. It is also our understanding that the need of the community being served supercedes the need of the post office workload demand for its employees being met. According to federal law, a Post Office is not supposed to be closed to save money. After some research, it has been discovered that even if all the designated rural post offices were closed the savings to the postal service would be less than 1%. We feel our rural communities are worth more than "less than 1%". Your posting points out that we do not have enough mail to keep our postmaster busy, but if you will re-examine your records, you will find that Ben Franklin has increased the number of people living here and our post needs have increased also.

In a time when jobs are at a premium, why would you consider closing places of employment in a small county that has no major job sources? Most of our citizens must travel outside the county to work. Many of our citizens are elderly. Depriving our rural communities of the post offices will not only hurt our small communities, but also our entire county.

While it is true that window services are available at Pecan Gap, Texas and Roxton, Texas, it must be remembered that not having these services available in Ben Franklin will be a hardship on everyone in our community. If a letter or package that must be signed for cannot be delivered by the rural carrier for some reason, it will mean a trip to Roxton or Pecan Gap. For quite a few of our citizens, this trip is a hardship. Services close to home are better for us, even if the post office is open fewer hours daily. Also, what assurance do we have that the Post Offices in Pecan Gap and Roxton will not be on the chopping block next year or even next month? Where will this all stop? It would be a shame to deprive us of a service we have enjoyed since 1854. Yes, that is 1854, not 1954. The Post Office was established in Ben Franklin, Texas in 1854. We are also the 2nd most continuous route in Texas. This route was established in 1904. We have quite a bit of history in Ben Franklin, Texas and would appreciate being able to keep it instead of losing it because of the Post Office having to fund congressional demanded retirement funds for postal employees.

It is our prayer that our Post Office remains active and service Ben Franklin, Texas as it has done for the last 157 years.

Sincerely

Benny & Julie Lovell

PO Box 497

Ben Franklin Tx 75415